

CHINESE DELEGATION TOURS VIRGINIA AIRPORTS

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), which is the equivalent of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) here in the United States, recently visited the states to study a few areas of interest. The CAAC Delegation began its visit in New York for FAA presentations on helicopter/general aviation regulations and advisory notices as well as a tour of the Downtown Manhattan Heliport (also known as Wall Street Heliport) and Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.

The group also visited different categories of helicopter/GA airports including those that will demonstrate landing on top of buildings and on water; studying each airport plan of flight area, working area, signals, communication/navigation systems, meteorological systems and fire control systems; they also received briefings from Airport Officials on Airport Management, measures which are taken at airports to ensure airport security and flight safety and implementation of FAA regulations.

Three of the Commonwealth's airports played host to the CAAC Delegation. The group made its first stop at Leesburg Executive Airport. Executive Director Juan Rivera gave an informative presentation about the airport, highlighting many areas of interest for the CAAC members, including a tour of the entire airport. Tom Mekis, general manager of Piedmont-Hawthorne Leesburg, gave the group a tour of their FBO fa-

cilities and allowed them to see the Certified Repair Station and the corporate hanger.

The CAAC Delegation was also treated to a tour of the FAA Leesburg Automated Flight Service Station, which serves as a pilot's primary information source and contact with the Federal Aviation Administration. The tour of Leesburg FAA Flight Service Station allowed the CAAC to understand the services the air traffic controllers provide including: weather briefings, VFR and IFR flight plans, NOTAM information, obtain IFR clearances and assist search and rescue of overdue aircraft.

Winchester Regional Airport was the next stop for the CAAC Delegation. Airport Manager Renny Manuel catered lunch for the guests. Also on hand for the visit were four Winchester Regional

Airport commission members. Chairman Charles Wilmont, Vice Chairman Charlie Brown, Secretary/Treasurer Harrington Smith and commission member Jim Kilbourne all attended the visit to help Renny answer the many questions asked by the delegation. The guests were then taken on an escorted tour of the facilities and airport grounds.

The last stop for the CAAC was Front Royal-Warren County Airport. The delegation was greeted by Airport Manager Reggie Cassagnol and treated to a brief question and answer session. The guest were then able to tour the airport grounds, glance in a few of the aircraft on site and tour the maintenance facility.

The whole event was a unique experience for the CAAC Delegation. The weather could not have been better for
(see **Delegation** cont. on pg.4)



Manager of Leesburg Executive Airport, Juan Rivera, gave an informative presentation and tour to the CAAC Delegation.



Director's Corner

Penguins and Helicopters

A Bird's Eye View

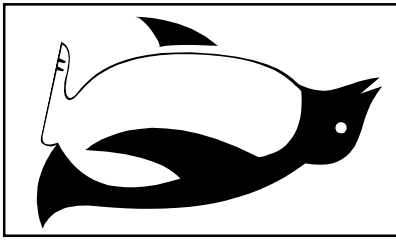
This is definitely one of those "you had to be there" stories, but I'll tell it anyway.

I listen to National Public Radio (NPR) whenever possible, but especially while driving between my home and office. It took me some time to acclimate to NPR because there are a few programs that are boring. On the other hand, it can also be educational and extremely humorous in a subtle way.

I tuned in on the way home one night last week just in time to hear a program that discussed a new British scientific study to analyze The Effect of Helicopter Overflights on Penguin Colonies in the South Atlantic. The program got my attention for obvious reasons. After it ended, I thought that you, our aviation enthusiast readers, might enjoy hearing about it.

It seems as though the British are concerned about the "environmental impact" of operating helicopters in Antarctica. According to a British scientist interviewed by NPR, they have found that when their Antarctic Expeditionary people fly around the continent in helicopters and come upon a group of penguins, the stubby, flightless marine creatures crane their necks to follow the helicopter until its flight path exceeds the range of their "craned vision." The birds

then fall over backwards, subsequently starting a chain reaction like dominos which eventually places most of the flock on their backs. I thought that this was intriguing and the vision of a flock

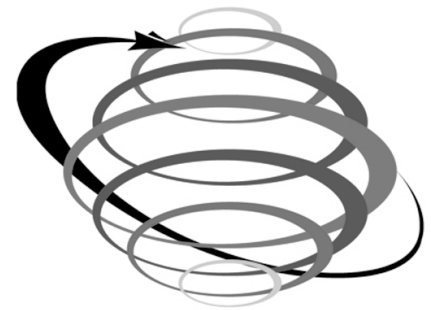


of penguins falling over backwards made me smile. Then it started. The program narrator said, with his very direct American slang, "Now let me get this straight, you're telling me that when a helicopter flies over them; they look, look, look, look and fall over backwards?" The very serious Englishman replied, "Oh yes, they fall on their backs. And we want to know how this effects them." (The exchange of words turned my smile into hysterical laughter. A steady stream of tears blurred my vision causing me to contemplate pulling to the shoulder of the highway.) The narrator then proceeded to tell the scientist that he and his countrymen have too much time on their hands. Just when I think it can't possibly be more humorous, it gets just a little better. As it turns out, the British government wants to spend the U.S. equivalent of a couple million dollars to fund the study.

I love animals, and I would be concerned if I thought that helicopter overflight could wipe the little guys out, but I would also think that the same conditioned reflex that caused Pavlov's dog to salivate would eventually kick in. I mean, after the birds witnessed enough helicopter fly-overs, I would think that they would figure out that there are basic dangers in looking up, especially at helicopters! Maybe that's what the British want to study?

As the cool, dark night streaked by my car window, I settled back in my seat and heard myself say, "I'm glad Americans don't spend public funds on such things. Yeah, Right!"

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- VIRGINIA AVIATION -

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VIRGINIA AVIATION BOARD ALLOCATES FUNDS TO STATE AIRPORTS



At its bimonthly meeting held in Richmond, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations to seven of the Commonwealth's airports from the Commonwealth Airport Fund for projects valued at \$1,334,222.99. Receiving one of the largest allocations was Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport in the amount of \$789,076.12 for Open Span Hangar Site Prep (construction/design) and for relocation of Route 771 (construction). Other airports receiving tentative allocations from the VAB were:

Region II

- Franklin County Airport received \$8,000 for site selection and feasibility study;

Region IV

- Hanover County Municipal Airport for airport entrance sign (design/construction) in the amount of \$4,000;

- Stafford Regional Airport was allocated \$32,500 for fuel storage facilities (design) and T-hangar site preparation (design);

Region V

- Danville Regional Airport received \$73,600 for corporate/community hangar site prep (design/construction);
- Lynchburg Regional Airport was allocated \$62,326.87 for security system upgrade (design/construction), corporate hangar site work (design/construction) and GA terminal and parking lot (construction);

Region VII

- Hampton Roads Regional for site preparation for two corporate hangars and land acquisition (108 acres +/-) in the amount of \$264,000;
- Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport received a \$50,000 increase for baggage claim expansion

(construction);

- Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport was allocated an increase of \$50,720 for access road (construction).

In other significant action the VAB also tentatively allocated \$13,050 from the Aviation Promotion/Air Service Development and Enhancement Grant-in-Aid Program to three of the Commonwealth's airports.

Region VI

- Dinwiddie County Airport received \$550 for replacement of highway signs that will reflect the name change of the airport;
- Lunenburg County Airport was awarded \$5,000 for newspaper and other print advertising;

The next scheduled board meeting will take place on Friday, December 15 at the Hilton located at Richmond In-
(please see **VAB** cont. on pg. 4)

DOAV PROMOTES VIRGINIA AVIATION

The Department of Aviation (DOAV) has been hard at work promoting Virginia Aviation at many events during the past two months.

The agency took its promotional trailer out to the Louisa Airshow for a

day of fun in the sun. A very good turnout at the airport made the event a wonderful success.

Next for DOAV was the State Fair of Virginia, where our exhibit was set up in the AT&T Broadband Technol-

ogy Center encouraging youngsters to take an interest in aviation. An interactive model of a general aviation airport runway and taxiway showing what the different lights and markings mean was a big hit at the event. Also fun for those visiting DOAV at the fair was the flight simulator, which allowed everybody to take to the sky and test their flight skills.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority played host to The International Air Cargo Forum, which was held at the Marriott Wardman Park.

Organized by The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA), the exposition featured many of the world's air cargo leaders and service providers. DOAV Director Ken Wiegand was a featured speaker during one of the luncheons at the three-day event.

The National Business Aviation As-
(please see **DOAV** cont. on pg 7)



DOAV Employee Keith McCrea gives some pointers to a youngster trying his skills at the flight simulator.

NEWPORT NEWS/WILLIAMSBURG HAS OPENED NEW AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD



A new access road for Newport News/Williamsburg, site for Aviation World's Fair 2003, has been opened. The access road was designed to relieve a serious traffic congestion problem at the former intersection of Bland Blvd., Mcmanus Blvd. and the airport public parking lot exit.

The new access road will also allow the public parking facilities to be expanded by more than 1000 spaces. Phase I of the new parking lot, 325 spaces, is expected to be open by Thanksgiving.

"The new parking lot/roadway project is progressing nicely so far in spite of some weather problems. Most people will become accustomed to the new traffic flows quickly. We expect to be able to accommodate Virginia resi-

dents and visitors in the new parking lot before the holidays. In previous years, we've had to use overflow parking lots," said Executive Director of the Peninsula Airport Commission, Jim Smith. "With the new larger aircraft coming in by United, we expect more customers at the airport. Through 12-months ending August of this year, our passengers increased eight percent over the previous period."

Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport also recently received an \$800,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for terminal building bond indebtedness retirement.

With this installment, the Peninsula Airport Commission has now transmitted \$5.5 million of a total bond indebtedness of \$7 million for terminal build-

ing construction. The passenger terminal was opened in November of 1992.

A new baggage claim area design is underway, with completion expected to be in early 2001.

Chairman of the Peninsula Airport Commission, Aubrey Fitzgerald said, "We are proud that Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport was the fastest growing commercial airport in Southeastern Virginia during the decade of the 1990's with a 44% increase in airline passengers. We will continue to develop aviation services and facilities to serve the residents and visitors of Southeastern Virginia. We expect our parking lot expansion to be complete before the end of this year."

(Delegation cont. from pg. 1)

these tours. This was a rare opportunity for these dignitaries to understand the workings of three different Virginia GA Airports.

The Delegation's next destination is Miami, where they will tour a seaplane base and be able to take a short seaplane flight. The final stop will be Los Angeles where the group will tour LAX and have a briefing session with Airport Management. Hopefully they will take with them many ideas that can be useful in their attempt to better the aviation system in China.

(VAB cont. from pg. 3)

ternational Airport.

The Virginia Aviation Board has eight members representing seven regions. The Board approves funding requests brought to it by the Virginia Department of Aviation, a state agency working to support and promote commercial and private aviation interests at the Commonwealth's 69 public-use airports.

NEW MAINTENANCE FACILITY AT RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL

Continental Airlines announced recently that Richmond International Airport will house a new regional maintenance facility. The facility, an airport-owned hangar located at Lewis and Fox roads, will be under lease for five years. The 22,000 square-foot facility will be the only major aircraft-maintenance center at Richmond International and is expected to be fully operational by February.

Improvements will be made to the World War II-era hangar with estimated costs being around \$750,000, which Continental will pay back to the airport for the work over a five-year lease.

The new maintenance facility will bring 60 new jobs to the Commonwealth, including aircraft mechanics, inspectors and supply personnel. Continental Express' other East Coast maintenance centers are in Newark, New

Jersey and Burlington, Vermont with Richmond becoming the regional carrier's sixth maintenance center.

When asked why they chose Richmond, Continental Express spokeswoman Michele King said, "It's mainly location, it's the perfect spot to serve the East." Besides Richmond's air links, the quick access to interstates 64 and 95 for bringing in aircraft parts by truck was another key element in the decision by Continental Express.

The carrier has begun new service to two Florida cities, Orlando and Tampa, and has also added four new flights daily to New York's LaGuardia Airport. As of print time, Continental was offering a round-trip flight for \$210 to Orlando, which is competitive with the \$172 round-trip flight on Air Tran Airways listed recently from Newport News to Orlando.

VIRGINIA AVIATION MUSEUM HOSTS SR-71 FORUM

What is it like to fly the fastest, highest flying airplane on record? Well, over 200 people were able to meet and greet those who really know. Twenty SR-71 Blackbird pilots, crew members and support personnel gathered at the Virginia Aviation Museum for the SR-71 Forum 2000 on October 14th and 15th.

Guests at the two-day event were able to meet the first ever test pilot of the Blackbird, Lou Schalk. Schalk gave presentations each day on test flying the SR-71. Visitors could also interact with pilots and reconnaissance systems of-

ficers from record-setting flights in speed and endurance, meet authors of SR-71 books and view slide and video presentations.

"We are celebrating the anniversary of our SR-71 Blackbird," said Virginia Aviation Museum Director, Mike Boehme. "We put together a really exciting group of people. Some of their stories have never been told before. The history of this plane has been cloaked in secrecy. This is a great opportunity to learn about this legendary aircraft first hand."

Each morning and afternoon Blackbird crew members, maintainers and mission support personnel took part in panel discussions about the airplane's development and use. Guests were even offered a rare glimpse into the cockpit of Virginia Aviation Museum's SR-71 as well as see an actual pressure suit worn by aircrews.

Blackbirds were built by Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works division in an era before computers were in common use. The titanium planes first started flying in the mid-1960s. SR-71s did not carry weapons, only cameras and sensors were used by this reconnaissance aircraft.

During the cold war, Blackbirds flew over many of the hottest hot spots gathering information. Over the years they have flown thousands of hazardous reconnaissance missions over places like North Vietnam, North Korea and the Middle East.

The SR-71 is on permanent loan to the Virginia Aviation Museum from the U.S. Airforce Museum in Dayton Ohio.



The legendary SR-71 can be marveled at during a visit to the Virginia Aviation Museum.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Applications for the 2001 Virginia Airport Operators Council Aviation Scholarship Award will be accepted beginning September 1, 2000. the deadline for submitting applications is February 16, 2001.

To be eligible to apply for this \$2,000 scholarship, a student must be a Virginia high school senior; must have maintained at least a 3.75 GPA average; must be planning a career in the field of aviation; and must be enrolled or accepted into an aviation-related program at an accredited college.

Application forms will be sent to

Virginia's public schools early this fall.

Forms will also be available on the Virginia Department of Aviation's website: www.doav.state.va.us.

A complete application form, high school transcript, recommendation letters and a typed double-spaced essay on the subject "Why I Wish to Pursue a Career in Aviation," should be sent to: VAOC Scholarship
C/O Virginia Aviation and Space Education Forum
Attn. Betty Wilson
5702 Gulfstream Road
Richmond, VA 23250-2422.

The 2000 winner, Andrew Thorne from Manchester High School, plans to attend Virginia Tech this fall.



VIRGINIA AVIATION HALL OF FAME TO RECEIVE TWO NEW INDUCTEES

The Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will induct two new members into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame. Ken Hyde, who is recreating the Wright brothers' early flying machine and Ann Baumgartner Carl, the first woman jet pilot, will be inducted during the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society dinner and reception at the Virginia Aviation Museum Saturday, November 18, at 5:30 p.m.

Hyde has been working on an exact replica of the Wright's 1903 Flyer, which was the first powered machine to fly successfully. He must learn to fly the unusual designed machine without

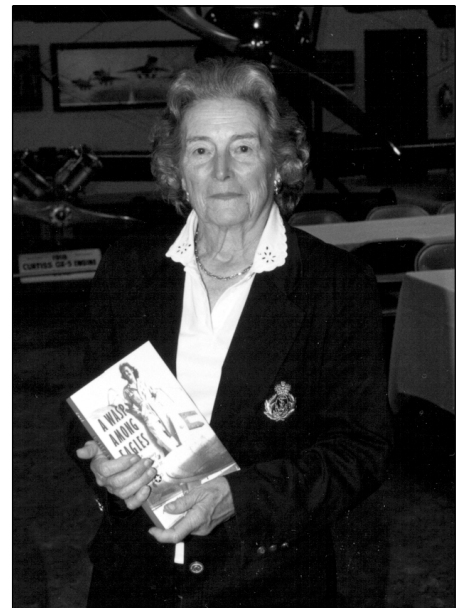
getting hurt. The Flyer is constructed in a manner that the person flying it must be lying down during flight. Hyde plans to fly it at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, at precisely 10:35 a.m. December 17, 2003. This day and time marks the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' historic first flight.

Unlocking the secrets of the Wright Brothers technology has been somewhat of a daunting task because so little information is known of this significant breakthrough. The Wright brothers were very secretive about their advancement toward a flying machine. Whether the brothers destroyed most of their information and drawings is uncertain, but very few exist today.

Hyde is a former pilot for Bendix Corporation, where he supported the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs. He is also a retired American Airlines pilot.

Ann Baumgartner Carl is a pioneer who has helped pave the way for other women aviators. In 1944 she became the only woman test pilot at the Army Air Force Wright-Patterson test facility. There she flew one of America's first turbojet powered aircraft, the experimental Bell YP-59A.

Carl is a former member of the



Ann Baumgartner Carl was the first woman jet pilot.

Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). During World War II the WASPs ferried planes across the Atlantic freeing male pilots for combat.

She has also written an autobiography about her days as a WASP, entitled *A Wasp Among Eagles*.

The Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame is located at the Virginia Aviation Museum and administered by the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society. For reception and dinner registration or Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society information call (804) 222-8690. For Aviation Museum information call (804) 236-3622. To access the Aviation Museum's website log on to www.vam.smv.org.



Ken Hyde plans to fly at Kill Devil Hills, NC, on Dec. 17, 2003.

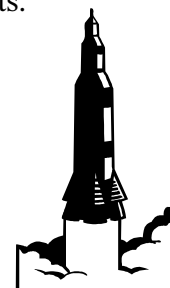
FTZ STATUS FOR VIRGINIA SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

The United States' share of the world's commercial space launch business has dropped from 46 percent to 26 percent in the last two years. The Virginia Space Flight Center (a joint operation with NASA at Wallop's Island on Virginia's Eastern Shore) is the only space launch facility in the United States from which commercial launches cannot be "bumped" by government and military priorities. However, Foreign

Trade Zones (FTZ) status was required to enhance its competitiveness in the world market.

The Virginia Eastern Shore Economic Development Authority asked the Washington Airports Task Force to seek FTZ status for Wallops Island and a site adjacent to Accomack County Airport. The U.S. Department of Commerce recently approved the status. At the request of the U.S. Treasury Department,

the expansion will be administered by the Virginia Port Authority, the grantee for zones associated with Virginia's major seaports.



(DOAV cont. from pg.3)

sociation (NBAA) recently held its 53rd Annual Meeting and Convention in New Orleans.

The convention offered a variety of informational sessions focused on business aviation industry topics and news. The sessions ranged from in-depth seminars to committee meetings and maintenance & operations sessions. Attendees were also able to see the static display at Lakefront Airport.

All of the students were able to get first hand knowledge from current employees in numerous aviation fields as well as see many aircraft on display throughout the day.

Airfest 2000 was held at Accomack County Airport. The event featured aerial acts, plane rides and tours, radio controlled models, classic cars and music by the local high school band.

The weather was beautiful and the field was loaded with many fly-ins for



The runway model was a big hit at the State Fair.


Richmond Airport Career Day was held recently at Richmond Jet. The event allowed area high school students to come and see what exciting careers are offered in the aviation industry. DOAV was on hand to distribute information and promote careers in aviation through our new table top exhibit and careers video.

the event. DOAV was on hand for the show, handing out many "goodies" for those young and old. The agency also had one of our aircraft on display for viewing.

The Department of Aviation commends all who have held events and would like to offer thanks for inviting DOAV to participate.

NOTAMs...

 Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. When you are in the area stop in and congratulate those at the airport for 30 years of wonderful service!!!!

 Effective immediately, the name of Petersburg Municipal Airport has been changed to Dinwiddie County Airport. Airport Manager Dave Ploeger advises that the identifier will remain PTB, but the approach plates and aeronautical charts will reflect the name change.

EVENTS...



November 16: Virginia Aviation Museum hosts M. Neely Young who will describe his experiences flying B-17s and B-24s with the 8th Air Force, including a mission supporting the D-day invasion.

November 18: Virginia Aviation Museum will host the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society dinner and reception and Hall of Fame induction. For reception and dinner registration info call (804) 222-8690.

November 18-19 and 25-26: Virginia Air and Space Museum Fall Flight Weekend. *Wild Wild Weather* allows you to discover the how and why of weather. Experiment with weather balloons and rockets and learn how the Delta Dart was used at NASA Langley Research Center for lighting research.

December 16: First Flight Celebration 10AM - Noon Included in museum admission. Special hands-on activities and films honoring the first manned, powered, controlled flight made by the Wright Brothers on December 17, 1903. See flying replicas of the Wright Brother's 1900 kite, 1901 and 1902 glider.

Submit upcoming event information to:
Newsletter Editor 5702 Gulfstream Rd
Richmond, VA 23250-2422
Or call (804) 236-3631; fax (804) 236-3635

'YOUNG EAGLES' SOARING HIGH AT NEW KENT

"Rising to the occasion," took new meaning for many of the young people who flocked to New Kent Airport for a ride into the blue yonder.

Recently, youngsters who wanted a chance to fly for free could do so as part of the Young Eagles Program. More than 70 kids, ranging from 8-17, took advantage of this offer from the 16 pilots who volunteered their time and planes to make this event a huge success.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 231 hosted the flight event at the airport as part of the EAA Aviation Foundation's Young Eagles Program, which was created to get young people interested in aviation.

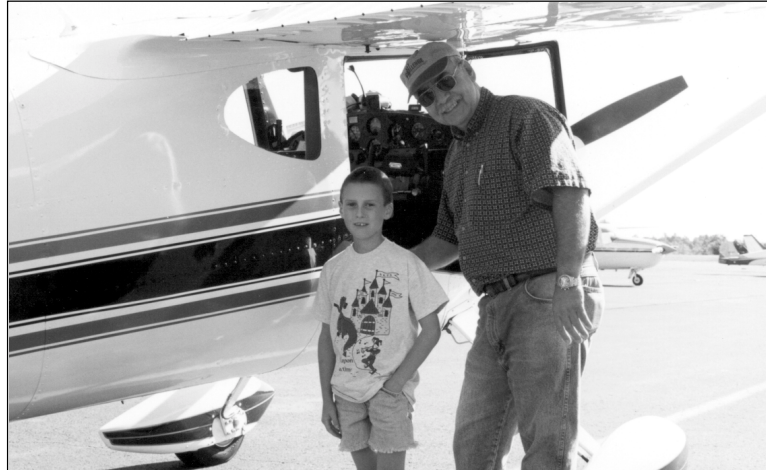
All that took rides into the sky received a certificate signed by the pilot and will also get to have their name en-

tered in the "World Largest Logbook," which is on display at the EAA Adventure Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Also at the event was the Airmobile from the Virginia Aviation Museum, this allow parents and kids a chance to try their skills at flying a plane in the flight

simulator as well as receive many aviation educational materials.

For more info on the Young Eagles Program, please visit www.eaa.org or contact EAA Chapter 231 Young Eagles Coordinator Gene Harrington at (804) 748-7551.



Lonzo Cornett gets ready to take Sheridan Fulcher, 8, up in his Cessna 140A during the recent Young Eagles Program at New Kent County Airport.



If you are interested in learning more about what is going on in the Department of Aviation, please call our office at (804) 236-3624 or our Sponsor Hotline at (800) 292-1034. Visit our website for updates on future events at: www.doav.state.va.us.



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